

## House Resolution 879

By: Representatives Stephens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Gordon of the 162<sup>nd</sup>, Bryant of the 160<sup>th</sup>, Day of the 163<sup>rd</sup>, Long of the 61<sup>st</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Michael O'Neal; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Michael O'Neal has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for  
3 the vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the  
4 education of the students of Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, a 35-year resident of Savannah, Georgia, Mr. O'Neal is the founder of Parent  
6 University and executive director of its management company, Community United Services,  
7 Inc.; and

8 WHEREAS, established in 2000 in collaboration with Savannah-Chatham County Public  
9 Schools, Parent University is a community based volunteer and nonprofit organization with  
10 the goal of forming a bridge between the community and schools; and

11 WHEREAS, this faith based program has attracted over 4,000 participants from the  
12 Savannah area and provides practical training for parents and encourages parental  
13 involvement in their children's education; and

14 WHEREAS, a Leadership Savannah graduate, Mr. O'Neal managed a pilot program for the  
15 City of Savannah called Strong Families Program that gave training to parents of youth who  
16 were considered at risk by the schools or the courts; and

17 WHEREAS, a civic leader, Mr. O'Neal is active in several community councils and boards,  
18 including the Economic Opportunity Authority Board, the Youth Futures Authority Board,  
19 the United Way of the Coastal Empire Board, the Truancy Intervention Project Board, and  
20 the American Cancer Society Leadership Board; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. O'Neal has received numerous awards in recognition of his outstanding  
22 service, including a Friend of Education honoree award from the Phi Delta Kappa

23 Association of Professional Educators, a Humanitarian Award from the Martin Luther King  
24 Junior Observance Day Association, and a Georgia Outstanding Citizen Award from the  
25 Georgia Secretary of State; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. O'Neal is united in love and marriage to his wife, Jo-Nell, and they have  
27 been blessed with four remarkable children and four grandchildren; and

28 WHEREAS, in recognition of his contributions to the students in this state, it is abundantly  
29 fitting and proper for this body to honor the extraordinary commitment and accomplishments  
30 of this outstanding individual.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
32 the members of this body heartily and gratefully commend Mr. Michael O'Neal for his  
33 sacrifice, foresight, accomplishment, and contributions on behalf of education in Georgia and  
34 for the positive influence he has had upon the lives and futures of countless young people in  
35 this state.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
37 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Michael O'Neal.